

REMARKS

Claims 1-154 are now present in this application, with new claims 114-154 being added by the present Preliminary Amendment.

In the claims, claim 1 has been amended to correct some minor informalities. Specifically, the claim has been amended to remove the word "and" inadvertently appearing redundantly in line 3 of the claim; and to change the phrase "at least associated one provider" to --at least one associated provider-- to correct an obvious typographical error. Both these changes are non-narrowing amendments, made in an effort to correct minor informalities and not made in order to satisfy an statutory requirement or to overcome any prior art rejection.

In addition, Applicants submit herewith new claims 114-154, provided in an effort to provide further protection for Applicants' invention. No new matter has been added in connection with the addition of these new claims. An early indication of the allowability of these claims, and in connection with the allowability each of claims 1-154 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

New Application No. 09/650,045
Docket No.: 35030-000103/US

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED-UP VERSION OF AMENDED CLAIM

1. (Amended) A method for a computer device, comprising:
associating a user of the computer device with at least one of a plurality of
beneficiary groups; [and]
providing an arrangement associating the user with at lest one provider of a
desired good, service, or information, based upon a received request for the desired good,
service or information, the at least one provider being associated with at least one beneficiary
group associated withy the user; and
arranging for the user to obtain the desired good, service, or information from
at least one associated [one] provider.